

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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March 27, 1997 LB 551, 814

of 28-1009, and 28-1010, which addresses cruelty toward animals. Similar disposition authority already exists for animals and property involved in violation of the law prohibiting pitting one animal against another. LB 551 addresses one vital part of the animal cruelty statutes. For the laws to work well enforcement authority needs to be coupled with a network of private and public agencies to take temporary custody and provide proper care and treatment while disposition is worked out in the judicial process. The expense often falls on either the local law enforcement, or private animal shelter, or even individuals. LB 551 then provides more clear authority to recover costs and the ability to resolve both the criminal and civil aspects of the case of the same action. The discretionary disposition authority granted by this bill remedies a situation where courts have had no other alternative than to return an animal to an abusive owner, even after a conviction. LB 551 is identical to LB 957, which was advanced in Judiciary Committee last year but died for a lack of time. I would urge your vote for this measure. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Dierks, there are no further lights on, would you care to close? Question is, shall LB 551 be advanced? All in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 551.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Mr. Clerk, LB 814.

CLERK: (LB) 814, by Senator Kiel. (Read title.) The bill was introduced in January, referred to the Judiciary Committee, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill, Mr. President.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Kiel.

SENATOR KIEL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. The reason for LB 814 is that users of guide dogs, hearing aid dogs, and service dogs are experiencing increasing problems with those who attempt to harass and interfere with their use. This was brought to me, originally, by the Guide Dog